

at least two chambers within the underdrain block, each chamber being defined by the lateral member;

a plurality of orifices in the upper wall of the underdrain block; and

a plurality of internal orifices in the lateral member;

[whereby the underdrain block is substantially greater in longitudinal length than a longitudinal distance between upper orifices]

wherein the underdrain block is jointless and extends substantially the length of a filter media supported thereby.

4. (Amended) The underdrain block of Claim 1 for use in a filter bed, wherein [the longitudinal length extends the length of the filter bed] the underdrain block extends the length of the filter media bed.

5. (Amended) The underdrain block of claim 1, wherein [the longitudinal length is at least 5 feet] the internal orifices formed in the lateral member of the underdrain block extends in the same direction as the orifices formed in the upper wall.

18. (Amended) An underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media bed in a liquid filtration system, the underdrain block comprising:

an upper wall, side walls, and a lower wall, said walls defining an interior of said underdrain block;

three lateral members within the underdrain block comprising two vertical lateral members and one horizontal lateral member, said two vertical lateral members dividing said

interior of the underdrain block into three sections of approximately equal size, said horizontal lateral member intersecting said two vertical lateral members such that said horizontal lateral member further divides the interior of the underdrain block into six chambers comprising three upper chambers of approximately equal size located above said horizontal lateral member and three lower chambers of approximately equal size located below said horizontal lateral member;

a plurality of upper orifices through the upper wall of the underdrain block; and

a plurality of internal orifices through the horizontal lateral member[;

whereby a longitudinal length direction of the underdrain block is substantially greater than a longitudinal distance between the upper orifices].

Please add Claim 28 as follows:

28. An underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media bed in a liquid filtration system, the underdrain block comprising:

a plurality of walls integrally connected; and

at least one chamber within the underdrain block being defined by the walls;

wherein the underdrain block is jointless and has a longitudinal length of at least 5 feet.

REMARKS

By the subject Amendment, Applicants have Amended Claims 1, 4, 5 and 18 and have added Claim 28. Accordingly, Claims 1 through 7, 18, 19 and 28 are presently pending herein. Claims 1, 18 and 28 are the independent claims.